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this means. It is fortunate that the author has recorded a large part of the numerous songs used in the ceremony and that he has been able to essay a translation of them. The illustrations are profuse and excellent.

There are numerous typographical errors, especially in the specific names of plants, but one can excuse minor blemishes in such a generally admirable work.

WALTER HOUGH.

*Beiträge zur physischen Anthropologie der Nord-Nyassaländer. Anthropologische Ergebnisse der Nyassa- und Kingagebirgs-Expedition der Hermann und Elise geb. Heckmann Wentzel-Stiftung. Mit Unterstützung der Stiftung herausgegeben von DR FRIEDRICH FÜLLEBORN.* Berlin: Dietrich Reimer, 1902. With text, 10 tables, 2 autotypes, 1 color scale, 63 photographic plates. Folio. (40 Marks.)

Students of African ethnology who have been delighted in reading Sir Harry Johnston's *British Central Africa* (1897) must follow up that comprehensive survey of a most interesting region by a close study of Doctor Fülleborn's tables and plates. The author lived three years in Nyassaland, in German East Africa, bringing together anthropological materials, making measurements, and taking photos. He must have had magical influence as a physician, for the natives are in his album singly and in companies, showing front, side view, and back. Dr Fülleborn has appreciated to the fullest extent the fact that the fixing of the tribe, the correct measures, and carefully taken photos are of more use to ethnology than any long story he could tell. The reader will put himself in touch with the book by consulting Stanford's *Compendium for Africa*, Vol. II, 1895, pp. 434 and 519. He will at the same time have occasion to mourn over the synonymy of tribes which may be looked for under *A* or *Wa*, or the initial letter, as Awamanganya, Wamanganya, or Manganya. The identification of the individual with the tribe and locality is so carefully done by the author, however, that the confusion in titles is reduced to its lowest terms. The name of the individual is given and the tribe of father and mother. Twenty-three measures of each person are then recorded, and remarks added concerning the color of eyes, hair, and skin, and also regarding other somatic characters not amenable to measurement. Plates 61-64 are devoted to footprints, and in tables viii-x the author discusses their merits by means of a series of measures upon the tracks and upon the feet themselves. In his capacity of physician Dr Fülleborn studied both the prevailing diseases among the Nyassa tribes and the recuperative powers in the case of wounds or maladies.

The sumptuous work is volume VIII of the German East African

series. The text and tables fill thirty pages of printed matter. Each of the 63 plates contains from three to many individuals, so that it is difficult to find where the author has neglected or omitted aught.

O. T. MASON.

*The Decorative Art of the Amur Tribes.* By BERTHOLD LAUFER.  
(Publications of the Jesup North Pacific Expedition: Memoirs of  
the American Museum of Natural History, vol. VII, number 1.)  
New York: 1902. 86 pp., 33 plates, 24 figures, 4°.

This monograph, like all the memoirs of the Jesup North Pacific Expedition, consists of the presentation of entirely new material. Sumptuously illustrated with 250 drawings, it deals with the decorative art, which is practically all the art, of the Gold, Gilyak, Orochon, and other tribes of the Amur region, including the Ainu. More articles of the Gold are described than all the other tribes together. Various arts are represented—carving in relief, ornamental painting, cutting of patterns in birch-bark and paper, and especially embroidering. A great variety of decorated objects are treated of, such as eye-protectors, mittens, spears, baskets, coats, and spoons.

Dr Laufer finds that there has been a strong Chinese influence on the art of the Amur country. Nothing, however, is actually known as to the history of the art-relations of the two regions. Dr Laufer's attitude on this matter is very conservative. He concludes that the art of the Amur tribes is old and deeply rooted, though its basis undeniably rests in China. He holds that the art is not an importation *en masse* from China, but must have had for its *conditio sine qua non* a congeniality in the minds of the two peoples; and that probably Chinese art was gradually absorbed and assimilated by the Amur tribes much as classic art was by the Europeans of the Renaissance.

The bulk of the book consists of a reproduction in illustrations of a large number of specimens of this art, and of an analysis in the text of the ornamental forms so shown. This analysis is carried out with great detail and much accuracy; it is so undeniably thorough as to make tedious reading to any one not specifically interested in problems of ornamentation. This care and thoroughness of analysis, however, give the book its value, for in the interpretation of decorative forms, superficial fancy has such an appalling opportunity that it is the great danger of study of this kind, and the condemning fault of much that has been published. Dr Laufer's analysis, in addition to being marked by caution and good sense, has the inestimable advantage of being founded on that of the natives.